appropriately and effectively brought to the notice of the international community, including the United States Administration, Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism in the State of Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India. The facts regarding Pakistan's sponsorship of terriorism have also been raised at high-level bilateral discussions with senior leaders.

There is a much greater appreciation of Pakistan's sponsorship of terriorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India, and the impact this has on the security of our country and the region. US Government's spokesmen have also said that in general there is support and ties between agencies of the Government of Pakistan and terrorist groups operating in Kashmir. India and the United States have also set up a Joint Working Group to intensify their Cooperation in combating all forms of terrorism.

Detention of Indian National by Russian Forces

2965. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH'SURYA' : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian national has been detained by Russian forces suspected of having fought against them in Chechenya;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of his whereabouts;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to ensure his safe release/return to India; and

(d) if not, what action Govenunent propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b). The Government have seen press reports that during their operations against rebels in the Republic of Chechenya of the Russian Federation, the Russian Authorities have captured an Indian national. According to these reports, the Indian national has been detained for interrogation in Makhachkala, capital of the Republic of Dagestan of the Russian Federation, by the Russian security agencies.

(c) and (d) The Government have sought full details relaing to this case from the Government of the Russian Federation.